

FBIS**DAILY REPORT
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TEXT OF PLO LEADER YASIR 'ARAFAT'S INTERVIEW

LD261131Y London AS-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Oct 78 pp 1, 2 LD

[ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT correspondent Salih Zaytun interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Doha--date not given]

[Text] [Question] Earlier this year, following the 8-day war in Lebanon, you said that the war in southern Lebanon was the first step in the U.S. threat to the PLO contained in Zbigniew Brzezinski's statement "goodbye PLO." Do you believe that what the Palestinian revolution is facing now is yet another step?

[Answer] Yes, it is another step that will be followed by further steps. We are not safe from the plots of our enemies, the imperialists and the Zionists. Therefore, we are facing difficult conditions whose objective is to bring the Arab people to their knees. The first step was taken when one-third of the Israeli Army was mobilized for the war in the south, but this invasion operation failed because of the strong Palestinian resistance. For the next step, two-thirds of this army is being deployed on the borders in anticipation of further developments inside Lebanon. The Israeli Knesset and Cabinet are determined to wipe out the PLO--its forces, its leaders and its representatives abroad.

In reply to such a step and to any other step I would say: Welcome to the plots. We will teach those, who are unable to understand our revolution's ability to resist, a lesson in how to foil their plots.

[Question] But it appears now that you are going to be alone in the field, especially after Egypt's withdrawal, which means the withdrawal of the biggest power. What are you going to do--I mean, are you still optimistic?

[Answer] My optimism stems from historical inevitability. Believe me, I see victory just as my eyes see you now. In any case, I believe that Camp David was a deal to sell Jerusalem. Nevertheless, this has developed into a referendum which divided the world in two, with one side welcoming the Camp David agreement and the other rejecting it. As for those who welcomed it, they qualified their welcome with reservations and reaffirmed the Palestinian people's right to establish their own independent state, to determine their future, to recover their homeland and to return to it. This goes to prove that ours is a giant revolution.

As for what you said regarding Egypt's withdrawal from the Arab arena, this is not true, because I trust the Egyptian people and I know that they will refuse to take back Sinai while abandoning Jerusalem, that they will not forsake the 76,000 martyrs who fell in the liberation war in return for this deal.

[Question] The Camp David agreement includes a provision regarding the fate of the Palestinian people. This is the provision for self-rule, but it fails to mention Jerusalem. What is your comment on this?

[Answer] I will leave the answer to the World Islamic League which declared in Mecca that historical facts cannot be falsified. These facts prove the Islamic and Arab character of Jerusalem which will never change, no matter what Israel does and regardless of Begin's aggressive statements regarding Jerusalem and the occupied territories. Aggression does not change facts. If the Arab nation has been weak in demanding its legitimate rights, it will not remain so forever. We have absolute confidence in the ability of the Moslems to save Jerusalem and liberate Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Incidentally, Hasan at-Tuhami's [President as-Sadat's adviser] messages to [Jerusalem Mayor] Kollek recognize the unification of Jerusalem under the Israeli flag and trust the Zionists with carrying out repairs to Al-Aqsa Mosque. This action was beyond all reason. But the chairman of the Committee for the Repair of Al-Aqsa Mosque strongly denounced such action and said that responsibility for this task lies with the committee in Islamic Jerusalem and not with the Zionists.

[Question] What is your opinion of self-rule as proposed in the agreement and in which the occupation authorities and the United States, with the help of Atherton and Saunders, are trying to achieve?

[Answer] The answer to this proposal by our masses and their leadership at home was practical and effective. The West Bank and Gaza Strip mayors have unanimously rejected it and considered it a continuation of Zionist occupation and, therefore, an unacceptable substitute for the right to self-determination and the right of our people to establish an independent state of their own on their own soil. This was an Israeli plan which our people have been rejecting since 1967.

[Question] What is your role as the PLO in this situation, where pressure is being brought upon the masses inside the country?

[Answer] We have declared during our recent intensive meetings to discuss the answer to this plot, that all elections must be boycotted as long as their purpose is to impose imaginary representatives of the Palestinian people who represent only their own personal interests and the interests of imperialism. We know what our people's answer will be to those who agree to be Zionist tools, to sign the liquidation agreement and to bypass our people's unanimous decision that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. In any case, we warn anyone who imagines that he will gain something by toeing As-Sadat's line that he will pay a high price. The people's judgment in this case is well-known. Such a judgment was previously passed against the mayor of Dayr al-Balah and against Hashim al-Khazindar. Traitors can never escape: the revolution will keep after them.

[Question] But what, in your opinion, is the practical answer to the self-rule offer?

[Answer] This plot calls for several things, most important of which are: a national unity between all the factions, a unified political plan to confront the conspirators and the reaffirmation of the fact that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

It also calls for escalating armed struggle inside the occupied territories and dealing military blows to the Zionist entity. An example of this was the recent launching of 33 such operations in 1 day. In addition, our masses inside the country must be supported with all means possible, since they represent our base.

In any case, our masses inside the country have never been in need of guidance to prove their patriotism. Recently, several meetings were held which unanimously rejected the Camp David agreement and reaffirmed the masses' cohesion around the PLO.

Our masses insisted on holding their meetings and carrying out their activities in Jerusalem, capital of Palestine, in order to affirm the Arab character of Jerusalem, the city from which the voice rejecting all sorts of settlements emanates. It is interesting to note that even preachers in mosques have joined the battle against self-rule. The municipal mayors have set up a national committee to coordinate protest activities and to resist self-rule.

[Question] We understand that you are in possession of important documents showing the rejection of the agreement by the masses inside the country. Can you throw light on these documents?

[Answer] There are several statements, one of which is issued by the mayors and another by women's associations in Palestine. Both statements affirm several points, most important of which are: rejection of and opposition to the agreements and all the documents and interpretations and appendices attached to them because they are contrary to the principles of the national battle and because such agreements could only mean a separate peace between Egypt and Israel. They are also contrary to the Rabat and Algiers summit resolutions which rejected separate solutions and upheld the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative. Moreover, the agreement violates the UN resolution on the Palestinian problem and denies the Palestinian people's right to self-determination in their own land. The agreement also ignores the people's legitimate representative--the PLO.

However, we hope that what Knesset member Meir Vilner said--that unless a Palestinian state is established the agreement will be nonsense--will come true.

For my part, I have conveyed to my brother-leaders of the Arab countries, the contents of these documents, so that they are aware of them.

[Question] What impression have you gained from your current tour of the Gulf?

[Answer] I have felt that all these countries are committed to the principled and firm Arab stand toward the national cause in general and the cause of the Palestinian Arab people in particular, including the Palestinian Arab people's inalienable right of self-determination and the establishment of their own independent state on their soil. They are also committed to the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people in accordance with the Algiers and Rabat summit resolutions.

[Question] Will you follow up this tour by other actions?

[Answer] We have sent telegrams and delegations to Islamic countries to call for an Islamic summit to discuss the fate of Jerusalem. Our UN delegation has been actively in contact with nonaligned countries' delegations, which reaffirmed their previous declaration at Belgrade in support of the PLO. We are also in contact with African and friendly states in order to explain all the circumstances surrounding the situation.

[Question] But such activities are in need of a fundamental step on the road to Palestinian national unity. When will that unity be achieved?

[Answer] We are holding constant meetings and we are about to declare a genuine unity in the military, political, propaganda and organizational fields. As far as I know, a great sense of national responsibility is being shown at these meetings because there is need for a firm answer to this new type of plot. There is an urgent need to plug all the loopholes in the national unity structure in order to prevent the enemy from penetrating our ranks and to achieve a solid unity.

[Question] What is your attitude toward the forthcoming Baghdad conference?

[Answer] We welcome this meeting and we will attend it. But we call on the Arab nation to shoulder its historical responsibilities. A firm and clear attitude must be adopted toward the outcome of Camp David, since there is no longer any reason for silence or for adopting a neutral stand.

[Question] Will you visit Baghdad before the conference is held?

[Answer] This is not being considered unless there is a need to move the Iraqi Army to the front.

[Question] What about the situation in Lebanon?

[Answer] What is happening in Lebanon is definitely linked to a plot being hatched by the imperialist and Zionist quarters to threaten the future of Arabism in Lebanon. What is being proposed regarding the rehabilitation [of Palestinians in Lebanon] is a link in the chain of a comprehensive plot. We call for cohesion between the Lebanese and Palestinians. I consider what has happened in Lebanon not a sectarian war but a plot against the area to ease the way for the major plot. We expect further escalation; we expect all the international, Zionist and secessionist parties to the plot to move in order to strike at us and distract Syria from its main task of confronting the Zionist enemy, since it doesn't stand alone on the front following the Camp David agreement.

ARAB POPULAR CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN DAMASCUS

JN251849Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1742 GMT 25 Oct 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 25 October--The General Arab People's Congress will hold an extraordinary session in Damascus on 15 November 1978. All members and bodies representing the nationalist and progressive parties and forces and the trade unions and vocational and popular organizations will attend the conference. This was announced by brother Muhammad Zuhdi an-Nashashibi, secretary of the PLO Executive Committee and deputy chairman of the Arab People's Congress.

In a statement to the Palestine news agency WAFA today, An-Nashashibi said that the congress will discuss in its extraordinary session the two Camp David capitulationist agreements, their consequences, and the means to pool the resources and mobilize the capabilities of the Arab masses for the struggle to abort these two agreements and neutralize them. The congress will also express support for the resolutions adopted by the pan-Arab Front for Steadfastness and Confrontation and its declared stand against these agreements. It will also render actual support to the steadfastness of Syria and the PLO.

He added that the congress will also discuss the mobilization of the Arab masses with the aim of restoring the strategic balance to the area through the participation of the Iraqi forces in the northern front, within the framework of the joint Arab action to confront the imperialist-Zionist onslaught against the Arab area.

The secretary of the PLO Executive Committee explained that the PLO will submit to the extraordinary session of the congress a working paper dealing with the mobilization of the Arab masses to support the Palestinian revolution, to end the occupation, to foil the Zionist autonomy plans, and to strengthen the struggle capabilities of the Palestinian revolution in all arenas of confrontation with the Zionist enemy. The working paper will also deal with supporting the heroic struggle being waged by the Palestinian people against the enemy inside the occupied areas.

The secretary of the PLO Executive Committee emphasized that the Palestinian working paper will stress the need for adopting measures guaranteeing that no Arab country will participate in the role formulated by the Camp David agreements and will also reaffirm all the previous resolutions relating to the right of the Palestinian people in struggle to liberate their homeland and regain their constant rights, as well as the continued commitment to the resolutions of the Algiers and Rabat summits.

It will be recalled that the first general Arab people's congress was held on 15 December, 1977, in Tripoli, Libya, following the first summit conference of steadfastness and confrontation and adopted several resolutions confronting the capitulationist line and As-Sadat's initiative. The congress elected a general secretariat to follow up the implementation of the resolutions.

POPULAR FORCES GROUPING IN JORDAN ISSUES STATEMENT

JN261519Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1245 GMT 26 Oct 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 26 October--In a statement issued here today, the General Secretariat of the Popular Forces Grouping [Tajammu' al-Quwa ash-Sha'biyah] in Jordan called on the Palestinian Arab people inside the occupied Arab territories and in the diaspora to resist and foil any attempt to create a substitute leadership or any alternative to the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people.

The statement also called on the different factions of the Palestinian resistance to further unite their ranks and work within the framework of the PLO and its charter.

The statement stressed the need to support the Jordanian stand declared by King Husayn and the Jordanian Government rejecting the Camp David agreements. The statement warned against the suspicious attempts, contacts and U.S. pressures on Jordan with the aim of forcing Jordan to change its stand.

The statement appealed to the Arab countries taking part in the forthcoming Baghdad summit, especially the Arab oil countries, to further consolidate the steadfastness of Jordan so this country can face U.S. pressures.

The popular forces grouping in Jordan urged the Arab countries taking part in the Baghdad summit in general and Syria, Iraq, Jordan and the PLO in particular to bypass all differences and contradictions for the sake of confronting the fateful threat which results from the conspiracy of Camp David and the imperialist-Zionist-As-Sadat onslaught against Arab destiny and its existence. The statement called on those countries to work together so they can meet the requirements of steadfastness, confrontation and liberation within the framework of genuine Arab solidarity. This matter will depend mainly on reviving and rebuilding [ihya' wa bina'] the eastern front.

The statement praised the unanimous stand of the Palestinian masses inside the occupied territories in rejecting the Camp David agreements and the conspiratorial autonomy plan. These masses have firmly reiterated their full support for the PLO. The statement stressed the need to consolidate the steadfastness of the masses inside the occupied territories and to support their steadfastness against the conspiracy and their struggle for liberation.

PALESTINIAN DELEGATION TO ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE NAMED

JN261812Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Oct 78 JN

[Text] It was announced in Beirut today that the Palestinian delegation to the Arab foreign ministers conference, which will begin in Baghdad on Monday, will be under Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department and will include 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, PLO official spokesman, and Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department.

WAPA VOWS JERUSALEM WILL NEVER BE ISRAELI CAPITAL

TA261651Y Paris AFP in English 1631 GMT 26 Oct 78 TA

[Text] Beirut, Oct 26 (AFP)--The Palestinian news agency WAPA vowed today that Jerusalem would never become the capital of Israel despite what it called a conspiracy by the United States, Israel and Egypt.

Commenting on the Israeli Government's plan to move its seat to East Jerusalem, WAPA said in an editorial entitled "Jerusalem, Capital of Palestine" that "the Palestinians regard all measures aiming at making Jerusalem the capital of Israel as null and void."

Accusing President Anwar as-Sadat of Egypt of wanting to "cede the Jerusalem card" sooner or later, WAPA said that the opinion of the Palestinians themselves about Jerusalem was primordial.

It stressed that the stand of the United States "does not interest us," although the Carter Administration has refused to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

"As far as we, members of the Palestinian resistance, are concerned, we shall continue the struggle, thanks to the support of our friends around the world, notably the Soviet Union. Jerusalem will never be the capital of Israel despite the Carter-As-Sadat-Begin conspiracy. Jerusalem will remain the capital of Palestine," said WAPA.

It added that it would await the stand of Arab states due to hold a summit meeting in Baghdad on Nov 2.

QATAR

QATAR, UAE, BAHRAIN REVALUE CURRENCY AGAINST DOLLARS

NC261208Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1140 GMT 26 Oct 78 NC

[Text] Doha, 26 October--The Qatar monetary establishment today announced that a decision has been made to revalue the Qatari riyal in relation to the dollar by 0.5 percent. The buying rate the establishment will now apply in its dealing with the banks operating in Qatar is 3.8400 riyals instead of the previous rate of 3.8600. The rate the banks will use in dealing with the public will be 3.8487 riyals instead of the previous rate of 3.8686.

The director of the establishment, Majid Muhammad al-Majid, has told QNA that this step was taken to maintain the value of the Qatari riyal. He said that similar steps have been taken by the UAE and Bahrain within the context of coordination and cooperation among the monetary establishments of the three Gulf states.

UAE

FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS PLO REPRESENTATIVES, IRAQI AMBASSADOR

JN261500Y Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1305 GMT 26 Oct 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 26 October--Foreign Minister Ahmad Khalifah as-Suwaydi today met with the PLO representative to the UAE, Ribhi 'Awad, and the Iraqi ambassador, Muhammad Jasim al-Amin, successively. In the first meeting, the foreign minister discussed with 'Awad bilateral relations in general. They also discussed the current Arab situation, particularly in relation to the Palestine question. This meeting is part of the current consultations and coordination prior to the convocation of the Arab foreign ministers conference in Baghdad.

Then the foreign minister discussed with the Iraqi ambassador the preparations for the forthcoming Arab summit conference to be held in Baghdad on 2 November as well as for the foreign ministers meetings on 30 October. During their meeting, they also discussed bilateral relations and the current Arab situation.

YEMEN--PDYR

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL FRONT SPOKESMAN SPEAKS OF YAR'S CAMPAIGNS

LD261640Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Oct 78 LD/EA

[Text] Reports from the northern part of the homeland say that the situation in the north has deteriorated and that popular resistance against the reactionary regime in the towns and rural areas has increased.

A spokesman for the Democratic National Front in the northern part of the homeland has stated that as a result of the San'a' rulers' barbarous campaigns of destroying people's villages and burning their farms, about 860 families have been driven away and are now living in the fourth district of the southern province of the second governorate in the southern part of the homeland. The front spokesman exposed the methods used by the San'a' rulers to implement the reactionary imperialist design aimed at liquidating nationalist forces in the northern part of the homeland and mounting an aggressive war against the progressive nationalist regime in the southern part.

The front spokesman expressed confidence that the citizens would continue to struggle alongside the nationalists within the framework of the Democratic National Front in order to exterminate the reactionary fundamentalist regime in the northern part, and thus accomplish the aims of the strategy of the Yemeni revolution and achieve a unified Democratic Yemen.

He said that the present rulers in San'a' had become completely isolated from the people. This had led them to carry out hysterical military campaigns of striking at the nationalist forces and honorable citizens in all areas. He stressed that these hysterical campaigns would only strengthen our steadfastness and determination to continue the struggle until the reactionary authority in the north was exterminated and Yemeni unity achieved.

On the economic situation in the northern part of the homeland, the spokesman said that the economy in that area was being managed by foreign monopolies and the local bourgeoisie. He said the San'a' government's economic life relied upon reactionary and foreign support, which had come to buy the Yemenis' freedom, dignity and sovereignty, and not to develop it.

He explained that the citizens in the northern part of the homeland felt lost because of the dreadful and deteriorating social situation, which had resulted from the spread of financial and administrative corruption, bribery and negligence at work.

Ending his statement, the spokesman hailed the achievements of the Yemeni Socialist Party and the government of the revolution in the southern part of the homeland in the interest of the broad Yemeni masses.

YEMEN--YAR

TEXT OF PRESIDENT SALIH'S NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW

JN262056Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Oct 78 JN

[Excerpts] The following is the text of the questions and answers of the interview granted by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to the Saudi newspaper AL-BILAD:

Question: Mr President, what has taken place in the YAR during the past few days gives the whole world a clear and comprehensive picture of the cohesion among the YAR people, the YAR Armed Forces and the security forces in defense of the progress achieved by the YAR under your leadership. Could you tell us exactly what happened in order to expose to the world this abortive conspiracy which aimed at tearing apart the unity of the Yemeni people?

Answer: What happened on the morning of 15 October was just a childish adventure aimed at destroying the unity of the people, disturbing their peace and security, controlling the people's fate and bringing the country under foreign domination. The conspiracy was foiled, thanks to the awareness of the Yemeni people and the sincerity of the armed forces and the security forces. A large-scale investigation is now taking place to define the dimensions of the plot and to throw light on the elements which took part in the conspiracy, or who supported it, in order to try them and justly punish them.

Question: Political observers have pointed out that the 15 October plot was connected with the agents in Aden and that there was an arrangement for the plot to be implemented on 14 October, to coincide with the anniversary of the revolution there. However, for some reason the plot was delayed for 1 day and it took place on 15 October, to be foiled after only 1 hour. What is the opinion of your excellency on this?

Answer: Undoubtedly the regime of bandits in Aden will always be a source of worry to the security and peace of the Arab region. It is foolish to believe that the ruling clique in Aden is sincere in its calls for peaceful coexistence with the states in the region. The clique is misguided and deeply involved with foreign powers and does not believe in Islam or in Arabism. The rule of this clique represents a stage which our people in the north and the south must successfully pass. The responsibility for this situation must be borne by some Arab regimes which do not want to recognize their tasks, understand the realities in the region, and change the status quo in Aden in the interest of the masses there. The masses are suffering oppression and tyranny.

The plot of 15 October will be a blot in the faces of the plotters from within and of those who abet them from outside. It is a lesson for those who trust the Aden rulers when they raise the slogans in support of internationalism and Arab nationalism.

V. 27 Oct 78

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U.S., EGYPTIAN REACTION TO SETTLEMENTS EXPANSION REPORTED

NC270643Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 27 Oct 78 NC

[Text] Israel's decision to expand existing settlements in the West Bank has evoked a sharp and fast response from U.S. officials. The U.S. State Department issued a strongly worded statement denouncing this decision. U.S. President Carter also sent a letter to the Israeli prime minister on this matter and then contacted him via diplomatic channels. U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance announced that the U.S. Government is extremely worried about Israel's decision and views it as grave. U.S. State Department official spokesman Hodding Carter said that the United States has stated on numerous occasions that the establishment of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories is illegal and an obstacle to peace.

In their last newscasts last night, U.S. television stations said that this measure on the part of Israel might delay the conclusion of an agreement with Egypt and is also considered a blow to U.S. efforts to conclude an agreement between the two sides.

The United States affirmed it will use all its influence to bring the negotiations to a successful end and that President Carter will continue to play a personal and effective role in the talks. The United States also promised that it will support the application of all the provisions and principles of UN Security Resolution 242 in the talks aimed at concluding a peaceful settlement between Israel and the Arabs.

In Cairo, the Egyptian Government is studying the possibility of recalling Lt Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali, the leader of the Egyptian delegation to the Washington talks, and Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, for consultations on this subject.

In Paris, French radio commented on this subject, saying that the U.S. and Egyptian reactions were similar. The radio referred to Egypt's intention to recall the leader of its delegation to the Egyptian-Israeli talks to Cairo for consultations. The radio said that Cyrus Vance expressed U.S. dissatisfaction with Israel's decision and asked for a clarification of this decision.

On arrival in Washington last night, Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan made a short statement in which he said that he feels there is no reason for Israel to apologize for this measure. He also said that he does not believe that Israel has violated the Camp David agreements.

CAIRO REPORTS VANCE, 'ALI MEETING

NC261658Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Oct 78 NC

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and the U.S. delegation to the peace talks met with the Egyptian delegation led by Lt Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali. The meeting took place at the U.S. Department of State and lasted 2 hours. The discussions dealt with the progress of the peace negotiations. During its meeting with the U.S. delegation, the Egyptian delegation explained the clarifications which the Egyptian government asked on the provisions of the agreement.

An official source has stated that the U.S. side has received the Egyptian clarifications with a positive spirit and that the meeting was useful.

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Answering a question on the successive meetings which the Egyptian delegation is holding with the U.S. delegation, Dr Butrus Ghali said that these meetings confirm the role which the United States is playing as a full partner in the negotiations and also confirm its commitment to this role.

The Cairo radio team reports that the three delegations are scheduled to hold a general official meeting at Blair House tomorrow.

AL-AHRAM DISCUSSES POSSIBLE RECALL OF EGYPTIAN DELEGATION

NC270715Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 27 Oct 78 NC

[From the press review]

[Text] In its comment today the newspaper AL-AHRAM highlights the frank nature of President as-Sadat's statement at his meeting with the parliamentary body of the National Democratic Party yesterday. The newspaper says that President as-Sadat spoke clearly about the requirements of the new stage of national action. He also spoke frankly about the circumstances surrounding the talks now underway in Washington between Egypt and Israel.

The president explained that Egypt might recall its delegation from Washington for direct consultations. It is true that there are daily contacts between the Egyptian delegation in Washington and Cairo on the progress of the talks, however, this does not mean that we can do without direct consultations, particularly concerning some important points.

Every point and every topic in the Egyptian-Israeli talks is important and needs thorough study. Therefore, it is not strange that there should be a thorough discussion of every point.

AS-SADAT ANSWERS NDP MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

NC261653Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Oct 78 NC

[Text] The parliamentary body of the National Democratic Party resumed its meetings today under President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat, in his capacity as the party's leader, in Al-Qanatir al-Khayriyah. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil, deputy prime minister for people's assembly affairs and NDP Secretary General Fikri Makram 'Ubayd and all members of the NDP parliamentary body.

Today's session was devoted to the questions and proposals which the members of the parliamentary body submitted to the president. The president answered these questions, which dealt with many issues, and commented on some of them.

Regarding the importance of national democratic action among the masses, the president said: The masses must form a clear view of our policy and stands. Action among the masses must be the basis of the party's action. We must avail ourselves of all national and religious occasions to hold dialog with the masses in the streets and villages so that they may listen to the party's principles and policies.

Regarding the state-owned land and ways of using it to solve the housing problem, President as-Sadat ordered the adoption of immediate measures in this respect. He ordered the ministers to establish the rules which will enable the citizens to form societies to take over these lands and construct houses on them, insuring that these lands remain the property of the societies and are not exploited for land price speculation. President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat asserted that he is prepared to cancel any rules which hinder development and construction.

Answering a question on insuring cattle in the villages, the president ordered the specialists to prepare an immediate solution which would result in the insuring of less than five head of cattle. [sentence as heard]

Concerning the role of the opposition in the democratic party system, the president said that being responsible for the National Party by virtue of the fact that he is the party's leader, he is also primarily responsible for the democratic experiment in Egypt. This experiment, he added, requires the presence of an effective and constructive opposition, because his responsibility for the democratic experiment is also shared by the National Party. This requires, he further said, that we prepare a sound democratic party system to safeguard the democratic system. If the NDP has an overwhelming majority in the People's Assembly, this majority must be exploited in serving the interests of the masses.

Regarding a proposal on paying more attention to the distant governorates and to the education system, the president said: The governor must be primarily a politician, not merely an administrator. He must be a political leader, particularly in his own governorate. The governors must be given full powers in everything connected with their governorates. President as-Sadat added: If we tend to appoint new governors, the object is not to change the people, but to change the method of performance and leadership. President as-Sadat referred to the success of some experiments in which the governors were natives of their governorates.

Concerning the method of selecting the People's Assembly speaker and committee chairmen and reports by certain newspapers about the choice of some persons, the president said: We adhere to democracy. Democracy means consultation. This means that I will not decide on any matter before I obtain your opinion. Consequently, we are not committed to what has been published and we will discuss this question together and then decide. No one takes precedence over anybody else and the only criterion is performance.

Regarding the population explosion, particularly in Cairo, President as-Sadat asked the ministers concerned to prepare quick solutions to this problem.

The NDP parliamentary committee will hold another meeting under President Anwar as-Sadat on Saturday morning. Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil will deliver a statement on the main points of the plan for the development of society and the government's new policy in this regard.

GHALI STATEMENT ON EGYPTIAN-U.S. MEETINGS

NC261944Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Oct 78 NC

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has made an exclusive statement to the Cairo radio team in Washington. He answered a question on the successive meetings the Egyptian side has held with the U.S. side during the past 2 days. He said: Actually, these meetings dealt with the remarks the Egyptian Government sent and the clarifications it requested on the provisions of the agreement. In view of the fact that the U.S. side is a full partner in these negotiations, it is participating with us in the discussion of the required clarifications.

Dr Butrus Ghali added that the clarifications Cairo asked for can be divided into three parts: Remarks and clarifications regarding the substance of the subject; clarifications regarding the form--phraseology--and clarifications closely connected with the form and phraseology. We have sent the answers to the remarks to Cairo.

Dr Butrus Ghali went on: The meetings of the Egyptian side with the U.S. side helped provide the answers. They will also help us to persuade the Israeli side, within the framework of the tripartite discussions, to understand Cairo's remarks.

In conclusion, Dr Butrus Ghali said: The U.S. side is playing the role of a full partner in the negotiations; it is also performing the role of conciliator between the Egyptian position and the Israeli position. It is trying to find a formula which would help overcome some of the obstacles which emerge now and then because of the difference over concepts or over the phrasing of the articles.

EGYPT TO INVESTIGATE WESTINGHOUSE BRIBE PAYMENT

NC262053Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2025 GMT 26 Oct 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 26 October--A responsible source of the prime minister's office today made the following statement:

The U.S. Government informed Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil yesterday that the U.S. Justice Department has filed suit against the U.S. Westinghouse Company, charging it with paying bribes in two contracts the company signed with the Ministry of Electricity in Egypt.

The Prime Minister contacted the U.S. ambassador in Cairo on the same day and requested that he be supplied formally with the details on this matter.

When the prime minister learned that former Deputy Prime Minister Eng Ahmad Sultan was the one involved in this charge, his excellency contacted the socialist public prosecutor and the attorney general and informed them of the matter, requesting that the necessary measures be taken in accordance with the law.

TALKS WITH SYRIA BRING JOINT ACTION CHARTER

Presidents Deliver Speeches

JN261800Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1645 GMT 26 Oct 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 26 October--Following the charter-signing ceremony President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr delivered a short speech. Following is the text of the speech:

His Excellency brother President Hafiz al-Asad, brothers: When nations face hard times and critical circumstances, and when the fate of a nation is jeopardized by serious threats, then the efforts of the people of this nation, who are concerned about the fate and future of this nation, become duties as essential as the basic elements comprising the nation itself.

On this basis and in this spirit, the Baghdad meeting was held between our two delegations. Hence the positive results which ensured from these meetings are a source of greatness for our Arab nation and not only for the peoples of the two fraternal countries. We have the right to call our Baghdad meeting an historic meetings. We have the right to call the results, which are on the way to serious and sincere implementation, historic results as well as principled and courageous stands which will leave their print on the march of this nation and its subsequent history for the future generations, for a long period of time and not just for the present generation.

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad delivered the following speech in reply: Brother President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, brother Vice Chairman Saddam Husayn, brothers: I deeply thank the brother president and the brother vice chairman and all the brothers, for what we have experienced during the many meetings we held these past 2 days.

The Syrian Arab delegation and I feel happy at what has been achieved during these meetings. We are also happy because we all have been what we should be and what the Arab citizens in Iraq, Syria and every Arab country hope for. I believe we have attained the level of responsibility desired by the Arab citizen wherever he may be.

From this point we begin a serious and responsible search for all that will strengthen our potentials and our capabilities for confrontation against this fierce Zionist onslaught launched against our Arab nation. Our clear determination to check this imperialist-Zionist advance aimed at our nation's interests, legitimate hopes and aspirations, is evident in Syria and Iraq.

The two countries throughout history have achieved much for the Arab nation and homeland, especially when the Arab nation and homeland was faced with difficult ordeals. History is full of clear and outstanding examples. As the brother president has said, we must not be of lesser importance or have a lesser sense of responsibility than our ancestors, who provided glorious services to the successive generations of our nation. We have all become aware that no Arab differences can affect the fateful struggle existing between the Arab nation on one side, and Zionism and its allies on the other.

Our evaluation has been identical. Our understanding of matters is the same. Our concern was the importance of strengthening trust between the two countries--trust between the two leaderships--as desired by Arab citizens in Iraq, Syria and wherever they may be, and according to the wish of every honest struggler in this Arab homeland.

It was our common opinion that we should strengthen capabilities, further mobilize potentials and strengthen trust to enable us to oppose this fierce enemy. We are confident and optimistic about the inevitability of victory because we are stronger and more determined and because our cause is just.

Undoubtedly, the great Iraqi people--whom we in Syria and in the Arab homeland and everywhere look upon with love and hope--and all our Arab masses in all the Arab countries wish to know what we have achieved. We are aware, I am aware, the brother president is aware and we in Syria and Iraq are aware that what we have achieved is just the first step. This is our understanding of our mission and we hope to convey it our people as it is.

We are aware that we have an arduous task before us, that we have a long road to cover. We have the intention and the determination. We have also stressed jointly that we shall struggle against obstacles and that we shall struggle to remove obstructions so as to reach the position to which we ourselves and our Arab masses aspire. Our ultimate aim is to achieve complete Arab unity by beginning with the unity between these two fraternal countries. Syria and Iraq, because many factors place them on the forefront of the movement toward unity. This road is long, as I have said, and we did not wish to jump over barriers and obstacles. We only said that we shall oppose these obstacles and remove them from the road.

Once again I thank President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, Vice Chairman Saddam Husayn and all the brothers of the Iraqi delegation. I also extend my thanks and heartfelt greetings to all the citizens in our beloved Iraq. Peace be upon you.

After the signing ceremony, President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr accompanied his guest President Hafiz al-Asad to the airport, where the Syrian president departed for Damascus at the end of his official visit to Iraq.

Charter Signed

JN261724Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Oct 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 26 October--Iraq and Syria have affirmed their determination to achieve a qualitative change in their relations. They have also stressed the need to insure the requisites for effective struggle to face the dangers threatening the Arab nation's destiny, dignity, sovereignty and future. This came in the charter for joint national action which was signed this afternoon by President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and President Hafiz al-Asad.

Declaration of Decisions Adopted by the Leaderships of the Republic of Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic During Their Historic Meeting in Baghdad From 24 to 26 October 1978

At the invitation of His Excellency President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and president of the republic, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic, made a fraternal visit to Baghdad from 24 to 26 October 1978 at the head of an official delegation.

During the visit a comprehensive and detailed review was held on the current Arab situation and relations between the two fraternal countries. The two sides concluded a charter for joint national action between the Republic of Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic. The text of the charter is as follows:

Charter for Joint National Action Between Syria and Iraq

In response to the historic pan-Arab responsibility shouldered by the two leaderships of the two struggling Arab countries--Iraq and Syria--in harmony with their deep belief in the principles of pan-Arabism and Arab unity; out of realization of the great dangers threatening the Arab nation, particularly in the current stage, from the imperialist-Zionist alliance, which have increased in gravity with the signing of the treacherous agreements between the Egyptian regime and the Zionist enemy; out of a feeling of the need to insure effective struggle requisites to face these dangers threatening the Arab nation's destiny, dignity, sovereignty and future; and out of a determination to achieve a qualitative change in relations between the two fraternal countries, the leaderships of the two countries met in Baghdad from 24 to 26 October 1978 in an atmosphere of deep awareness of the historic responsibility, deep understanding and firm determination to realize the pan-Arab aspirations and hopes which the Arab masses pin on these two leaderships.

The two leaderships agreed upon a charter for joint action between the two countries in the various political, military, economic, cultural, information and other fields, including a determination to seek arduously--within a continuous and scientific plan--to bring about the closest form of unity ties between Iraq and Syria.

The historic meeting of the two leaderships which took place in October 1978 signifies an important qualitative change in relations between the two countries on the road to Arab unity, which is the highest aim of the Arab masses.

The two leaderships particularly stress the profound and comprehensive militant purport of their historic agreement with regard to the just struggle of the Arab nation against the usurping Zionist enemy for the liberation of the occupied land and for the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Arab nation.

The delegations of the two leaderships consisted on the Syrian side of: President Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic; 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Jamil Shayya, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Fahmi al-Yusufi, deputy prime minister for services affairs; and Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad, information minister.

On the Iraqi side: President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, chairman of the RCC and president of the Iraq Republic; Saddam Husayn, RCC vice chairman; Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and minister of housing and construction; Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member; 'Adnan Husayn, RCC member and planning minister; 'Adnan Khayrallah, RCC member and defense minister; and Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, foreign minister.

The two delegations have decided on the following:

First, to establish a joint higher political committee composed of the leaderships of the two countries to supervise all the affairs of bilateral relations between the two countries in the political, military, economic, cultural, educational, information and other fields and to achieve coordination and integration between them to realize the unity objectives specified by this charter.

Second, the committee will include, on the Iraqi side:

1. President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, RCC chairman and president of the republic.
2. Saddam Husayn, RCC vice chairman.
3. 'Izzat Ibrahim, RCC member and interior minister.
4. Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and minister of housing and construction.
5. Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member.
6. 'Adnan Husayn, RCC member and planning minister.
7. Staff Gen 'Adnan Khayrallah, RCC member and minister of defense.

On the Syrian side:

1. His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, president of the republic.
2. Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi, prime minister.
3. 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.
4. Jamil Shayya, deputy prime minister for economic affairs.
5. Fahmi al-Husufi, deputy prime minister for services.
6. Gen Mustafa Talas, defense minister.
7. Zuhayr Mashariqah, education minister.

Third, the committee will meet every 3 months or whenever the need arises, and alternately in the two capitals of the two countries.

Fourth, a number of central subcommittees stem from this committee, as follows:

1. The subcommittee of political, information and cultural affairs headed on the Iraqi side by Tariq 'Aziz, member of the RCC, and on the Syrian side by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. This subcommittee will propose joint policies and supervise coordination, integration and cooperation between the two countries in the political, information and cultural fields.

2. The subcommittee of economic affairs and technical cooperation headed on the Iraqi side by 'Adnan Husayn, member of the RCC and planning minister, and on the Syrian side by Jamil Shayya, deputy prime minister for economic affairs. This subcommittee is entrusted with bringing about coordination, integration and cooperation between the two countries in the various economic and technical fields, and with strengthening and developing relations in the fields of agriculture, industry, irrigation, trade, planning and transport and the various economic and technical fields.

3. The subcommittee of military cooperation. On the Iraqi side, this subcommittee is composed of:

- A. Staff Gen 'Adnan Khayrallah, minister of defense.
- B. Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, foreign minister.
- C. Staff Gen 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal, chief of the general staff of the armed forces.

On the Syrian side, this subcommittee is composed of:

- A. 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.
- B. Gen Mustafa Talas, minister of defense.
- C. Gen Nikmat ash-Shihabi, chief of the general staff of the army and armed forces.

This subcommittee shall undertake the formulation of a joint defense pact providing the groundwork for complete military unity between the two countries.

4. The subcommittee for education, higher education and scientific research headed on the Iraqi side by Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the RCC and minister of housing and reconstruction; and on the Syrian side by Zuhayr Mashariqah, minister of education. This subcommittee shall undertake the standardization curriculum in education, and bring about coordination and cooperation in scientific research.

Each of these subcommittees can add to its membership a number of specialists as the need arises. The dates of the meetings of these central subcommittees will be set in agreement between their co-chairmen. Each subcommittee should submit a report on the progress of its work to the joint higher political committee at least 2 weeks before the date of the meeting of the higher committee. Decisions taken by the subcommittees are subject to ratification by the higher committee. The higher committee authorizes the subcommittees to adopt and implement those decisions which the higher committee believes need not be referred to it.

Signed: Hafiz al-Asad, President of the Syrian Arab Republic; Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, chairman of the RCC and president of the Republic of Iraq. Baghdad in 25 Dhi al-Qi'dah 1398 Hegirah corresponding to 26 October 1978.

Syria Reports Charter

[Editorial Report JN] JN270708 Damascus domestic service in Arabic at 0415 GMT on 27 October carries the 30-minute "text" of the charter for joint national action signed by Syrian President al-Asad and Iraqi President al-Bakr in Baghdad on 26 October. Comparison with referent item reveals it to be identical with the above-published version.

Al-Asad Leaves Baghdad

JN261340Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1332 GMT 26 Oct 78 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 26 October--Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has left for Damascus following a 3-day visit to Iraq. During the visit, President al-Asad held talks with President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr which resulted in the signing of a national charter for joint action.

U.S. Reaction Noted

JN261850Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1835 GMT 26 Oct 78 JN

[Text] Washington, 26 October--Hodding Carter, official spokesman of the U.S. Department of State, has declined to comment on the charter for joint pan-Arab action which was signed today by Presidents Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and Hafiz al-Asad. The INA correspondent in Washington cites the U.S. spokesman as saying that he will not comment on the charter.

This is the first reaction from the United States following the announcement of the charter in Baghdad and Damascus.

VOL REPORTS ON AL-JUMAYYIL, DEAN MEETING

NC261613Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1515 GMT 26 Oct 78 NC

[Text] Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil received at his house in Bikfayya the U.S. ambassador to Lebanon, Mr Dean. The meeting lasted 45 minutes.

After the meeting the ambassador said that it had been a courtesy call. He added: We discussed the current situation in Lebanon and I believe we understand the situation well. Asked if he has a proposal for a specific solution, the ambassador said: We had a general discussion and we did not restrict the discussion to a specific solution.

Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil said: It was a traditional visit. I was pleased to get acquainted with the new U.S. ambassador. We seized the opportunity to review current conditions. I cannot imagine that a country like the United States, which is one of the most powerful, advanced, civilized and democratic countries, can see a democratic and civilized country such as Lebanon--the country which is unequalled in this area for its freedom, democracy and civilization--and stand idly by in face of the Lebanese catastrophe.

AL-JUMAYYIL COMMENTS ON CABINET PROGRAM

NC261744Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1515 GMT 26 Oct 78 NC

[Excerpts] In his press statement today, Pierre al-Jumayyil commented on the implementation program of the Bayt ad-Din conference resolutions. The cabinet approved the program yesterday. Al-Jumayyil said: All the programs and resolutions issued so far by local and Arab quarters have lacked one thing: implementation. All the resolutions and programs issued so far are almost carbon copies of each other.

The Lebanese Phalangist leader added: All agreements concluded since 1969 refer to the removal of armed manifestations, withdrawal of armed Palestinians from positions not allotted to them and helping the state impose its authority and restore its prestige. However, none of this has been implemented.

Pierre al-Jumayyil said further: If the Arab Deterrent Forces had, since entering Lebanon, carried out their security role properly without taking notice of an armed presence in one place and ignoring it somewhere else, and if these forces had carried out their tasks against non-Lebanese when Lebanese were adhering completely to all resolutions, they would have saved us some tragedies and pains. Therefore, we demand that the state take matters firmly in its hands. When the Lebanese citizen feels assured that the government is capable of guaranteeing his security and life, he will lay down his arms, which he only carried to defend himself and his existence. He will also cease armed manifestations, which he only resorted to defend the homeland when the Lebanese regular forces failed to defend our homeland and citizens. We will be the first to respond to any measure which would restore security, authority's prestige and legitimacy.

In conclusion, Pierre al-Jumayyil demanded that the task of implementing the program be charged to forces which will really act honestly, impartially and resolutely and that these forces be placed under Lebanese orders and authority.

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LEBANON

ADF COMMANDER SEES AL-HUSS, ANSWERS QUESTIONS

NC261805Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Oct 78 NC

[Text] At 1320 today Prime Minister al-Huss held a meeting with Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] commander Col Sami al-Khatib. They were later joined by Interior Minister Dr Saïd Salman and the director general of the Internal Security Forces, Staff Brig Gen Ahmad al-Haj.

At 1445 Colonel al-Khatib left the meeting. He held the following dialog with newsmen:

He was asked: Have any measures been taken regarding the evictions in Al-Birjawi and Al-Ashrafiyah areas?

He answered: I was informed about this now and we shall deal with it.

He was asked: Have the ADF gone to Jubayl?

He said: No.

He was asked: It has been said that the ADF will go to Jubayl.

He said: Who said so?

He was asked: Now that steps to remove armed manifestations have started in the western area, when will it start in the eastern area?

He answered: It should have started now.

He was asked: The removal of the armed manifestation?

He answered: Yes, the removal of armed manifestations should have started.

Colonel al-Khatib was asked: What is your comment on the implementation of the security measures in the western area?

He answered: We said earlier that measures have been taken regarding the removal of all armed manifestations. I believe that everyone has noticed that these measures have been implemented well. Satisfaction prevails in the area, which you must have felt.

He was asked: Regarding security measures, will they also be extended to the remaining areas of Beirut?

He answered: Security measures will be applied in all areas of Lebanon.

He was asked: Is there a definite timetable for their implementation?

He said: We are trying to formulate such a timetable.

The ADF commander was asked: Have you begun to form the committee that will coordinate the actions of the ADF, the army and the security forces?

He said: We shall begin forming this committee soon.

He was asked: When will the security plan be implemented in all areas of Lebanon?

He said: God willing, in a few days, I imagine.

He was asked: It has been said that there are incidents in the Jubayl area. Will the ADF intervene?

He answered: We shall try to deal with the situation.

Finally he was asked: Eviction attempts are taking place. What must be done to deal with them?

Colonel al-Khatib said: We shall oppose eviction wherever it takes place.

The meeting between Prime Minister al-Huss, Minister Salman and Staff Brigadier General al-Haj continued until 1515.

AL-HUSS UNDERLINES GOVERNMENT DECISION ON MEDIA

NC271009Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 27 Oct 78 NC

[Text] Dr Salim al-Huss, the prime minister and information minister, held a meeting with Information Ministry officials this morning. They discussed the information situation as contained in the program to implement the Bayt ad-Din resolutions and the measures leading up to it.

At the end of the meeting, Al-Huss made the following statement:

We are determined to implement the decision stipulating that private radio stations--all private radio stations--must stop transmission.

The government's decision expresses the position of legitimacy. No stand against the government decision is legitimate, whatever the pretexts. We are making necessary preparations to pave the way for successful and effective implementation of the decision.

Al-Huss added: Soon, we shall call on all private radio stations to stop their transmissions at a fixed hour. We shall take a stand toward any radio station which might contravene the decision. However, we hope that those responsible for those radio stations will respond to the government's stand and to the requirements of the current juncture and close their radio stations down quickly of their own accord even before a specific hour is fixed for this by the government.

The same thing will apply to all unauthorized publications and bulletins.

Prime Minister al-Huss said finally: We believe that any handling of the security situation will not be sufficient or succeed unless it contains a measure stipulating that private radio transmissions must stop. Private radio stations are no less dangerous but are more dangerous to the security situation than weapons and barricades. A halt of shelling and sniping with weapons will be useless if radio "shelling" and information "sniping" continue.

BEIRUT REPORTS ARMED ACTIONS DISAPPEARING

NC261823Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Oct 78 NC

[Text] What causes most satisfaction is, perhaps, the quick and obvious disappearance of armed manifestations from some quarters of the western area of the capital. This confirms the extent of the response to the government's decisions. The officials and citizens hope that this phenomenon will prevail in all other areas so that all may enjoy security and tranquillity.

ADF COMMAND ISSUES STATEMENT ON SECURITY SITUATION

NC161956Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Oct 78 NC

[Text] A responsible source of the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] command this evening made the following statement regarding the security situation:

There was tangible relaxation today as a result of efforts to prevent armed manifestations in the western Beirut area and its southwestern suburb. In accordance with the new plan, ADF patrols continued to carry out their missions successfully in coordination with the Internal Security Forces.

During the past 24 hours, 36 offenders have been detained on charges of carrying weapons or wearing military uniforms.

In the eastern suburb of Beirut, armed men continued to open sniper fire at the ADF in the areas of AL-Burj square, the empire building, Al-Wati bridge and Ad-Dikwanah, in an attempt to maintain tension in order to hinder the implementation of the Bayt ad-Din resolutions.

Armed militamen also continued to provoke the ADF in the At-Tayyunah area, sometimes by sniping and at other times by firing shells, compelling those forces to answer the fire in the appropriate manner and in accordance with orders given them to exercise self-restraint.

It appears through ADF experience and observation that one group of armed men is continuing to escalate the situation, disregarding all that has happened, while basic groups of militias have begun a noticeable and serious process of controlling their armed men in an effort to facilitate the return of normal life in the country and the return of the refugees to their homes and areas.

VOL: UK CLOSES DOWN SHIMLAN STUDIES CENTER

NC270715Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 27 Oct 78 NC

[Text] Britain has decided to close down its studies center in the Lebanese township of Shimlan because of difficult communications and security conditions. At the center, which was established 20 years ago, aliens received Arabic language training.

VOICE OF LEBANON REPORTS SPORADIC SNIPING

NC270833Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0815 GMT 27 Oct 78 NC

[Text] One Lebanese soldier was killed and another was wounded on the As-Salon-Sinn al-Fil axis a short while ago. Sporadic sniper fire can be heard in Sinn al-Fil and in some areas of Ad-Dikwanah, At-Tahwitah, Badaru and in the center of the capital.

Roads continue to be dangerous across Al-Wati bridge in the Chevrolet area and at the approaches to the western area from the eastern area.

ALGERIA

ASH-SHA'B ASSAILS SUDAN'S SUPPORT FOR CAMP DAVID

LD261023Y Algiers ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Oct 78 p 1 LD

[Editorial: "Surrender of Rulers and Steadfastness of People"]

[Excerpts] The Sudanese regime has officially declared its total support for the Camp David agreements by which As-Sadat not only signed his surrender to the enemy and abandonment of the Arab liberation cause, including the liberation of Egyptian soil, but also signed on and joined the enemy ranks against the Arab nation and its liberation causes.

Although As-Sadat committed treason, surrendered and alined himself with the enemy, the facts indicate that Egypt did not commit treason or surrender--which goes to prove that the strong will of the Egyptian Arab people's masses will inevitably triumph against the treason and the plot hatched against Arab Egypt.

We therefore want the Sudanese rulers to be aware of this reality, which indicates a clear fact--that the peoples will not betray themselves and will not pursue a course opposed to their causes regardless of attempts to mislead them and to conceal the truth from them.

We will not be wrong in saying that the official attitude recently adopted by the Khartoum regime does not necessarily express the real attitude of the fraternal Sudanese people. Certainly the Sudanese people's will is stronger than official statements. That fact must not be ignored, because that Arab and African people, through their sufferings and long experience, are well aware that their destiny is linked to that of the Arab nation just as they are aware that it is linked to that of the African continent.

The official Sudanese stand is serious because it encourages As-Sadat to follow his treason through to the end and further divide the Arab nation, despite the fact that the Arab nation is in need of effective solidarity to face the serious challenges and the plot, which is not aimed at Egypt alone or occupied Palestine alone, but at the whole Arab nation from the Atlantic to the Gulf.

The declaration of support for Cairo's surrender line is an attempt to break the tight ring of isolation around As-Sadat's regime. Except for King Hassan II's support, As-Sadat's regime is isolated both in Egypt and throughout the Arab homeland.

The recent Sudanese stand came at a time when the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, which expresses the will of the Arab masses, was able to give new impetus to the Arab liberation struggle and to heighten the sense of national responsibility throughout the Arab world, as well as to draw from the support of the socialist forces adequate means gradually to restore the strategic balance.

MOROCCO

BOUCETTA CRITICIZES ALGERIA FOR UNDERMINING MAGHREB UNITY

LD261407Y Casablanca LE MATIN in French 17 Oct 78 p 3 LD

[Extracts from 14 October Rabat speech delivered by Moroccan Foreign Minister M'hamed Boucetta at Istiqlal Party Central Committee meeting]

[Text] "Brothers and Sisters, our country has recently experienced a number of events among which the development achieved by our national cause at all levels is by no means the least in importance. That development has again thrown into relief the unbreakable bond which exists among various fields; the development prompts us at the same time to greater vigilance and greater general public mobilization and also, therefore to create the necessary conditions for such mobilization.

"The direction taken by the tension maintained by Algerian rulers in our region has, equally, been an occasion for exposing the deep-lying motives and the essential nature of this tension which invariably keeps everyone in the grip of the idea--nurtured by the Algerian rulers--that by perpetuating their aggression they may indeed end up by weakening us and shaking our will. In this connection [King Hassan's] 20 August speech put matters in perspective and reaffirmed Morocco's position on recent developments. If, then, just recently we engaged in intensive diplomatic activity to denounce the disturbances and the aggression--and at the same time it has enabled us to reveal our viewpoint in all its clarity--it has happened not least because the Moroccan people are firmly determined to face up to Algerian aggression and to insure that everyone realizes that our desire for peace is equaled only by our determination to safeguard and defend our rights.

"The policy pursued by Algerian authorities at the present time is based on dedication to the plundering of the Moroccan people and to stripping them of their rights and territory--which colonialism carved up--in order to be able, subsequently, to penetrate our territory while setting up a docile, separatist regime in Sahara. There is scarcely any need to recall that the Moroccan people will never permit an expansionist dream like this to come true and that this only reinforces their determination not to concede even an inch of their territory.

"The intentions of the Algerian leaders are, at present, clear. They have, after all, been clear for several years already, since the Algerian authorities caused the collapse of all efforts tending toward building up the Arab Maghreb, have gone back on their obligations. That applies above all to those undertaken in line with the accords of 6 July 1961 and overtly manifested their hegemonist designs on the region in such a way that virtually all the peoples of the Arab Maghreb have had to bear the cost.

"For our part, our attachment to our territorial rights was always marched in step with our desire to see regional cooperation and balanced, equitable, bilateral cooperation established on the basis of clarity and openness. That is our view of the problems relating to the building up of the Arab Maghreb. Equally, that is our conception of Moroccan-Spanish cooperation on which unanimity has now been achieved. Our policy on that is clear, but it must not be interpreted as a renunciation of our conviction that our relations with Spain must be free from the bitterness lingering from the 18th and 19th centuries."

The secretary general of the Istiqlal Party concluded his speech with this appeal:

"Thus, everything prompts us to focus our attention on the principles and fundamentals of matters. It is this in particular that I must recall as far as Arab questions are concerned and, above all, the Palestinian question, which we have never ceased to regard as being the fundamental problem. Moreover, it is always as such that we have viewed this issue--one which we have at times set above our own problems. We believe furthermore that nothing will be done until Israel has vacated the territories it is occupying, and that partial settlements will yield nothing positive. In our opinion, everything else is of secondary importance. Thus, let us reject all marginal speculation, all polemics, all attempts at divisiveness; for we believe that behavior like this can only prejudice the Arab cause and Arab unity and that includes the expedient stances adopted by certain Palestinian elements. In this connection I have no need to recall that the PLC remains the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

INDEPENDENTS MOVEMENT LEADER EXPLAINS POSITIONS

LD261333Y Casablanca LE MATIN in French 20 Oct 78 pp 1, 4 LD

[Radio-France Internationale interview with LE MATIN Director General Moulay Ahmed Alaoui: "Morocco Always Prepared for Dialog, Moulay Ahmed Alaoui Stresses in Interview With Radio-France Internationale"--date and place of interview not specified]

[Text] Question: Moulay Ahmed Alaoui, you are a deputy, president and director general of LE MATIN and MAROC SOIR and a former minister.

The National Assembly of Independents [RNI] of which you are the head is in the process of emerging in Morocco at the present time. To what is this development a response and why, in your view, should there be a new political party in Morocco?

Moulay Ahmed Alaoui: The independents' movement was born about 2 years ago, at the time of the general elections. Given the new economic situation and new generations, there are young people seeking a new structure in the political sphere. They have not joined the old political parties and we felt the need to create a movement in order to channel this entire new generation of independence--young people who were 5-10 years old before independence and have now reached adulthood. They have been educated since independence. Consequently, if they have not joined the other political parties, it is because they have personal reasons.

Although there was scope for it, given that our constitution is a pluralist constitution, we won 141 seats as independent candidates and collected more than 60 percent of the votes nationwide. We saw that there was a real political current calling itself independents.

At that time--the time of the elections--it was nothing more than a current of ideas. Following the municipal, commune, trade union and national elections, we realized that we were the biggest group in parliament because we had an absolute majority. We felt the need to make the transition from a current of ideas to a real political party, a real political force, which must play a role derived from its power, its size and its influence. Hence the idea of rallying all independents in a national movement, in a huge movement. Compared with the old parties, we want a program of new options with new aspirations that are neither rightwing nor leftwing but which try to bring about a kind of synthesis of all political and economic options of existing political forces and primarily a kind of original and unique movement.

For instance, in the political sphere, we are in favor of the constitutional monarchy.

You know that in a country such as Morocco, which has national values and traditions, which is a Moslem country, which is a country with Arab and Berber ancestry and which is an extremely particularist and regionalist country, the constitutional monarchy must be strengthened by a presidential regime. And it is this which distinguishes us in the political sphere from other political groupings. Everyone is monarchist either out of conviction, from tactical considerations or on intellectual grounds. But we are monarchists not only out of conviction but also for political reasons, for reasons of efficiency because Morocco needs a strong royal government.

Question: Aren't you afraid that this new party, this RNI may seem, inside Morocco and abroad, and maybe particularly abroad, to be his majesty's party?

Moulay Ahmed Alaoui: In fact all the parties are his majesty's parties. But we do not want to be only a monarchist party because by definition everyone is monarchist. The constitution is a constitutional monarchist constitution.

Question: So there is no place for an antimonarchist party?

Moulay Ahmed Alaoui: Certainly not. There is no place for a party which does not owe allegiance to the monarchy.

Question: You spoke just now of a more presidential regime. Just how do you reconcile this increased presidentialism and the monarchist framework?

Moulay Ahmed Alaoui: First, by definition monarchy is personal power when it is not exercised under a constitution. The very fact that Morocco is living under a constitution means that the constitution has delimited powers; royal, legislative, executive and judicial. But the thing which characterizes our regime is that the king is the head of the executive. The sovereign chairs the Council of Ministers and all decisions are taken under his chairmanship. Options and orientations are provided by the King.

Question: One of the major watchwords of the PRI is participation. What does this work mean for you? What does participation mean for you?

Moulay Ahmed Alaoui: Participation--it was His Majesty King Hassan II who launched this word in his speeches.

Question: As to the defense of national sovereignty and respect for territorial integrity, what is the independents' view as far as the Sahara is concerned? How do you view the possibility of dialog with Algeria regarding that problem if there is a more open attitude? How might the Sahara affair develop?

Moulay Ahmed Alaoui: As far as territorial integrity, political unity, national sovereignty and national independence are concerned, there is national unanimity among the independents as there is among all the political parties. We say: We are Morocco. Moreover, that is the king's position every time.

In his last message to President Boumediene in the wake of the aggression against our territory his majesty, while protesting solemnly at this aggression, did not close the door on dialog. On the contrary, he appealed to the idea of the Maghreb, to the idea of greatness, prosperity and fraternity, therefore that is the way. Morocco is prepared for dialog. There is decolonization, there is the right of the peoples to be masters of their fate, but there is also the right of the peoples to safeguard and regain their territorial integrity.

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I S R A E L

N 1

WEIZMAN OPTIMISTIC ON CHANCES FOR PEACE AGREEMENT

TA261303Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 26 Oct 78 TA

[Text] Following the cabinet decision yesterday, reporter Alan Ben-'Ami asked Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman if he shared the optimism of some of the cabinet members that Egypt will go along with the Israeli amendments. [begin recording]

[Weizman] I am steady in my opinion and I think this is where we have a more than a fair chance of completing the agreement.

[Question] Do you anticipate lengthy negotiations now or do you think they can still be wrapped up in a matter of 2 or 3 weeks?

[Answer] Now, 2, 3 weeks are fair enough with me.

[Question] You are not worried at all by reports from Egypt that the Egyptians are going to call for a stronger linkage on the West Bank issue and the Egyptian-Israeli aspect?

[Answer] With all due respect to the media, I have learned to listen to the Egyptians and not only to the papers. The same goes for the Israelis, by the way.

[Question] Do you feel that in Israel, perhaps the draft treaty is being misunderstood here and there is too much pessimism?

[Answer] I think it is...I would say that there is a little bit too much pessimism; on the other hand it is not an easy act for Israel to do what we are doing; we are hoping that the peace will be achieved and that it will be a real, thorough and steady peace. What we are giving up is a lot and the average Israeli is a bit concerned, but I think he should be less pessimistic than he is.

[Question] The key worry for Israelis is the question of the West Bank. Are you yourself satisfied that Israel can more or less get what it seeks in the West Bank and still reach a peace treaty with Egypt?

[Answer] I think if all parties concerned, if they do it in the spirit of the things that we have done in the past few weeks, I think it can be done.

[Question] And the Jewish settlement can continue in the West Bank?

[Answer] I wouldn't like to go into details. I think that yes. I wouldn't like to go into details and please don't start going into lengthy inquiries. I'm going back tomorrow with the chairman, with Mr Dayan, and we're both hopeful that we can complete the mission that we have taken upon ourselves. Thank you. [end recording]

DAYAN, WEIZMAN SPEAK UPON DEPARTURE FOR WASHINGTON

TA261157Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 26 Oct 78 TA

[From the Midday Newsreel]

[Text] Our correspondent Dan Eshel was present at the press conference held by Dayan and Weizman at Ben-Gurion Airport this morning. [begin recording]

[Eshel] Mr Dayan explained that the amendments made in the draft by Israel, as well as those made by Egypt will, of necessity, produce a renewed discussion of clauses on which a compromise agreement has already been reached by the two delegations. In answer to a question, Mr Dayan agreed that the decision to flesh out the settlements will make the negotiations more difficult.

[Dayan] There is no doubt that what would make the negotiations much easier is if we accepted everything the Egyptians want. Then it would be possible in 5 minutes to sign everything they wish, or in other words let us say, to sign a letter of surrender to their terms, and then the negotiations will be easy and quick and simple. But I do not think that these decisions, the decision on fleshing-out the settlements and the idea of transferring the offices to East Jerusalem, in any way contradict the Israeli policy, which must be meticulously implemented in any case, and which we cannot do without. The policy on our right in East Jerusalem--not our right at the expense of others, but our right proper--as well as on the establishment of settlements, the fleshing-out of settlements and the addition of settlements in Judaea and Samaria and in the Gaza Strip, before and during the autonomy; these things are basic elements in Israel's policy. In my view, Israel must not relinquish--regardless of the framework of agreement--these central pillars of our policy.

[Eshel] On the same occasion, Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman announced the expected arrival of the Pentagon delegation next Wednesday. He also explained the objective of the delegation's visit.

[Weizman] To examine those subjects that the United States agreed to execute, such as the two airbases--and it was always two airbases that were mentioned, never one--and those things that the United States will examine with us, regarding the redeployment of the IDF and the role of the United States in helping finance those objects.

[Eshel] Finally, Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan was asked about reservations of the Egyptian delegation on the draft of the peace agreement.

[Dayan] Our delegation in Washington heard certain things on this matter and none of us should be surprised--it is not even difficult to guess--that they are the opposite of the reservations of the Government of Israel. That is to say, the same things the Government of Israel does not desire, the Egyptian delegation is trying to strengthen, and vice versa. [end recording]

Dayan on Arrival in U.S.

TA270615Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 27 Oct 78 TA

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan said that only a few hundred families would be added in the near future to the settlements in the territories under the fleshing-out plan announced by the cabinet. Hence, what we decided is nothing spectacular and unlikely to thwart the peace talks. Dayan was speaking on his arrival in Washington last night. He censured U.S. diplomat Harold Saunders and said his statements regarding the settlements inspired the decision to flesh out the settlements. Dayan told the press: Saunders' statements caused a turmoil in Israel that you cannot even imagine.

Dayan made it clear that not a single settler would be evacuated and not a single settlement would be dismantled. I want to make it clear, the foreign minister said, that Israel does not have to apologize for settlements in the territories.

BEGIN DEFENDS FLESHING OUT SETTLEMENTS IN WEST BANK

TA261942Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 26 Oct 78 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin said less than an hour ago, at an election meeting in Tel Aviv, that our right to Jewish settlements in Judaea and Samaria will be maintained. He added that the fleshing out of settlements now does not contradict decisions achieved at Camp David. Our correspondent Dan Raviv brings us further details of the remarks the prime minister made on the matter of fleshing out the settlements. [begin videotape]

[Begin] I want to announce that I have not yet received from the secretary of state the letter mentioned on Israeli radio regarding the cabinet decision, which was unanimously accepted yesterday, to add population to our settlements in Judaea and Samaria. [applause] After I receive that letter I will reply to it, but I want to say this evening, to you and to all the citizens of Israel and also to other nations, the Jewish people has a full right, which cannot be refuted, to settle in the whole of Eretz Yisrael, in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. [applause] This right has been maintained and will be maintained. When I was in Camp David, I specifically informed the President of the United States that over the coming 3 months we would add hundreds of families to the settlements in existence in Judaea and Samaria and this is what we are doing. [end videotape]

Vance 'Very Troubled'

TA261625Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 26 Oct 78 TA

[Text] A short time ago U.S. Secretary of State Vance reacted to the decision of the Israeli cabinet to flesh out the settlements. In a short announcement he issued in Washington, the U.S. secretary of state says that he is very troubled by the decision and that the matter is very serious. Vance adds that he has already contacted Prime Minister Begin, and he will therefore avoid any further reaction until he receives the Israeli prime minister's answer.

Our correspondent in Washington says that Israeli circles in the U.S. capital said that the reaction is very sharp, even if it is diplomatically formulated. The announcement is also surprising to a certain extent, since the U.S. secretary of state will confer with Ministers Moshe Dayan and 'Ezer Weizman tomorrow and will hear details about the cabinet's decision from them.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO DEAL WITH FLESHING-OUT PROGRAM

TA261640Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 26 Oct 78 TA

[Text] A special ministerial committee headed by the prime minister will decide on the sum of money to be allotted to fleshing-out the settlements. One of the ministers told our correspondent for economic affairs Yosi Melman that the cabinet had not taken any decision to allot 300 million Israeli pounds for the purpose of fleshing out the settlements. The agriculture minister had indeed mentioned this figure in his talk with the finance minister, but nothing has been concluded yet, and according to the assessment of several sources a much larger sum than 300 million Israeli pounds will be required for fleshing out settlements.

MK RABIN EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER FATE OF WEST BANK

TA261746Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 26 Oct 78 TA

[From the Afternoon Newsreel]

[Text] MK Yizhaq Rabin said today, in an appearance before a meeting at the center of Ihud Haqevutzot Vehakibbutzim, that he is very apprehensive about the fate and status of the West Bank in the wake of the peace agreement with Egypt. The former prime minister also referred to the present negotiations with Egypt. [Begin recording]

[Rabin] Egypt insists on a total withdrawal, the removal of the settlements and the inclusion of East Jerusalem in the Palestinian issue. I will add that the United States has not changed its positions. The United States also insists on its basic positions today--and this is expressed in Carter's letter to As-Sadat on the Camp David agreements, in Saunders' remarks and in Carter's reply to King Husayn--that, in the framework of full peace, Israel should withdraw to the lines of 4 June 1967 with minor modifications and that the solution for Jerusalem is a unified and open city, municipally unified and without barriers, but politically divided.

[Unidentified correspondent] The decision to postpone the decision on Judaea and Samaria for 5 years raises several difficult questions, according to MK Rabin. Will we be able to defend the region during these years against subversive organizing, and will we have any influence there? Jordan has not joined the negotiations, MK Rabin said, because it demands guarantees for a total Israeli withdrawal.

[Rabin] The reason that Jordan has not joined the negotiations today is not the demand that the United States express its opinion. The United States has agreed to do so. Jordan demands U.S. guarantees that the latter will lead Israel to the June 1967 borders after the transitional period. This is the Jordanian demand today. Jordan states that without this it will not join the negotiations. [end recording]

Scores U.S. Position

TA270749Y Jerusalem POST in English 27 Oct 78 p 2 TA

[By Mark Segal]

[Text] Tel Aviv--Former Premier Yizhaq Rabin yesterday charged that the Carter administration has sought from the start to deny Israel new and permanently defensible borders, and its Arab-leaning grand design had been helped by the Begin government's negotiating mistakes.

The main trouble, he charged, was the absence of coordinated policies between Israel and the U.S. today.

Addressing the leadership of Ihud Haqevutzot Vehakibbutzim at the agricultural center here, Rabin attacked the recent Middle East mission of U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Harold Saunders.

"What Saunders did was very serious indeed, particularly the contemptuous attitude displayed towards Israel and its government. We were negotiating with Egypt, and they were already busy selling Jerusalem, Judaea, Samaria and Gaza--and it's not clear whether or not they are talking with the PLO."

The former premier noted that in 1975 his government had arrived at an understanding with the Ford administration--when accepting the second interim agreement in Sinai--which included an American promise not to deal with the PLO. This commitment, Rabin said, had served as a brake on matters ever since, "and I am aware that for the present administration the 1975 commitment is a nightmare."

Rabin regretted that Premier Menahem Begin had failed to get down in writing a similar binding undertaking from the present administration during the Camp David summit, adding: "But it is not too late to obtain one."

He noted that Washington had not yet given any concrete commitments to cover the financial burden of the IDF withdrawal from Sinai, let alone the removal of the settlements. The Israeli economy could hardly cope with such an exigency, he said.

"It has to be made clear to Washington that only a strengthened Israel will be capable of facing up to the coming test on the eastern front," Rabin declared.

Rabin recalled his first talk with the newly-elected President Jimmy Carter, when he heard from him of his design to oblige Israel to return to the 1967 lines with minor adjustments.

Later Carter put the concept "Palestinian homeland" into circulation, Rabin said, observing sardonically: "It's difficult to imagine that any Arab ruler would agree to less after the U.S. came down firmly for a near-total retreat to the old lines. Thus Carter decisively weakened Israel's struggle for peace within new and defensible borders."

LIBERAL PARTY REACTS FAVORABLY TO CABINET DECISION

TA261859X Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 26 Oct 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] And back to the matter with which we opened, the cabinet decision yesterday: The Liberal Party leadership ended a debate on the decision made in the cabinet less than an hour ago. The leadership decided to make a note of these decisions in the expectation of developments to come in the negotiations in Blair House over the draft peace treaty. Our correspondent on party affairs, Amnon Nadav, returned a few minutes ago from the Liberal Party leadership's meeting.

[Nadav] At a relaxed and comfortable meeting, where no decisions were made, it was noticeable from the remarks of most of the speakers that they supported yesterday's cabinet decisions. Let us hear a talk I held with Minister Moshe Nissim, who chaired the meeting this evening. [begin recording]

[Nissim] The members of the leadership generally, as far as I could see, are adopting the decisions of the cabinet, and they regard them as correct. Of course, there is some criticism--Minister Moda'i took part in the debate and expressed his view. He said there is some explanation for why he abstained from the voting yesterday, despite the fact that today he said specifically that the contents of the decisions, at which he was not present appeared to be more acceptable than they did before he left the cabinet session. [end recording]

[Nadav] Minister Moda'i, who explained his abstention last night from the cabinet session, will be satisfied only if the current draft proposed by Israel is accepted, and this is not at all clear.

However, even in the event that this draft is accepted without any danger of linkage, Minister Moda'i has reservations about the weakness of the economic issue, as it appears in the current Israeli draft. In his view, there are no detailed figures on the oil issue and the economic ties with Egypt. As for the Americans, pressure could have been used to get more economic aid from them. I asked Minister Moda'i if there were many supporters for his reservations? [begin recording]

[Moda'i] Generally, at these meetings we do not measure majority or minority, but I can say that I received and still have considerable support. [end recording]

[Nadav] Minister Ehrlich, in summing up the meeting, replied, among other things, to Minister Moda'i's reservations. What is important is the very fact of the founding of economic ties with Egypt, and only afterward will there be an examination and details, Minister Ehrlich said. As for the Americans, next week the Pentagon delegation will come, and we will speak with them about aid for the projects and their price will be whatever it is, without going into the details of the price itself.

Critical of U.S.

TA261906Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 26 Oct 78 TA

[Text] Minister Moshe Nissim said this evening at a Liberal Party meeting that one of the reasons for the cabinet's decision to flesh out the settlements was the serious content of the Saunders document. He said that Saunders' trip and Carter's letter to Husayn created a credibility crisis toward the United States. Minister Nissim called on the cabinet to publicly demonstrate its positive attitude toward the settlements.

Our correspondent Asher Schwarz reports that Minister Simha Ehrlich said that there was no doubt that if pressure was put on the cabinet on Judaea, Samaria and Jerusalem, its reply would not be positive. He said that even if the matter of the linkage between Sinai and Judaea and Samaria was not pointed out in the peace agreement, it is clear that there is a link between the two issues. In reply to the criticism that the economic links were not detailed in the draft agreement, Minister Ehrlich said that countries had never signed commercial agreements while they were signing peace agreements.

Minister Yizhaq Moda'i said that the United States should be asked to increase its participation in Israel's expenses resulting from the withdrawal from Sinai.

ALIGNMENT LEADERS CRITICIZE BEGIN, U.S. POLICY

TA270754Y Jerusalem POST in English 27 Oct 78 p 2 TA

[By Mark Segal, POST political reporter]

[Text] Tel Aviv--The Labour-MAPAM Alignment yesterday dissociated itself from the government's announced settlement activities in heavily populated areas of Judaea and Samaria.

A joint meeting of the Alignment Knesset faction and its executive forums resolved that in future debates on the fate of the territories it will be guided by the need for ensuring defensible borders, anchored on a new network of settlements in the Jordan rift, the Etzion bloc and the Golan. Accordingly, the Alignment favoured the strengthening of established outposts set up for security reasons.

Contrary to expectations, former Premier Golda Meir did not appear. Party sources said she may come to today's concluding session.

Labour Party Chairman Shim'on Peres said that the opposition would determine its stand once the negotiations with Egypt ended. The party's vote for the Camp David proposals should not be taken as a sign that it will approve future peace proposals, he warned.

Aware that Alignment votes would be as decisive in rescuing the government's peace plans as in the Camp David debate, Peres said his bloc would be guided by the need for defensible borders, the unity of Jerusalem and the future of the settlements.

Peres spoke witheringly of "the Israeli rope chasing the American bucket," with Washington pushing for an overall Middle East settlement.

Peres said an agreement with Egypt over the West Bank was tied to the presence of a large Arab population in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. He revealed that at one stage of the negotiations there had been talk of holding elections first in Gaza, but that was ruled out by the Likud "because it hopes it won't happen in Judaea and Samaria."

The U.S. was seeking a solution to the Palestinian Arab problem, and for Israel the question remained who would be the negotiating partner, the Labour Party chairman said.

Danny Rosolio urged strengthening of existing settlements as part of a defensive network. Tamar Eshel feared the implications of the "constant kowtowing" of the Begin government to the U.S.

Hayyim Zadok objected to the government's tendency to the declarative approach: "They made pronouncements about transferring government offices but don't do it. I transferred my (Justice Ministry) bureau to East Jerusalem but didn't make a song and dance about it."

Labour's Yossi Sarid attacked Premier Begin's "unholy fuss" about transferring his bureau to the eastern side of Jerusalem. "Jerusalem will be weakened, not strengthened, by Begin's performance, especially after the first head of state refuses to go to East Jerusalem to call on the premier," Sarid said.

Moshav Movement Secretary Arye Nehamkin attacked the decision to remove settlements in Sinai, saying, "we have to focus on our legitimate rights to live and not on those of others."

MAPAM Secretary-General Me'ir Talmi said the Likud's peace treaty was based on abandoning UN Resolution 242 for the southern front, "so that it won't apply in the east."

This was in contradiction to the Alignment stand, which was based on applying Resolution 242 on all fronts.

The autonomy idea for the Arabs in the remaining territories aroused his worst fears: "Anyone who thinks matters will be left in abeyance for 3 to 5 years is under an illusion. The mad rush has already begun," the MAPAM leader said.

The recent mission of U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Harold Saunders had highlighted the deteriorating state of U.S.-Israel relations, he said, adding that he feared the Begin government was not capable of coping with U.S. President Carter's grand design of forcing a complete Israeli withdrawal on all fronts.

MK SHOVAL PREDICTS IMMINENT LA'AM SPLIT

TA260822Y Jerusalem POST in English 26 Oct 78 p 2 TA

[Text] Tel Aviv--MK Zalman Shoval last night said that the split of the La'am faction of the Likud "is a matter of days." Shoval was commenting on the internal crisis that has blown up after La'am Health Minister Eli'ezer Shostak merely abstained at yesterday's cabinet meeting and failed to vote against the draft peace treaty with Egypt.

Shostak had ignored the appeal of five out of eight La'am MK's who met at the behest of his rival, ex-minister Yiga'el Horowitz and resolved to urge his resignation should the government adopt the draft treaty. They then individually phoned Shostak to advise him of their decision.

With Horowitz were Zalman Shoval, Yizahq Perez, Amnon Lin and Moshe Shamir. However, by the evening Shamir had joined Shostak, La'am faction Chairman Yig'al Kohen and Ehud Olmert in issuing a statement that the meeting with Horowitz was "a personal one" and that only the faction Central Committee could decide on such matters. The committee will meet after the November 7 local elections. Meanwhile, pressure is being exerted on Shoval to resign as the foreign minister's information adviser by his La'am colleagues.

SHAY CALLS SETTLEMENTS DECISION HARMFUL TO NEGOTIATIONS

TA261911Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 26 Oct 78 TA

[Text] The Movement for Change and Initiative, SHAY, expressed the fear that the decision to flesh out the Judaea and Samaria settlements stems from partisan needs and coalitional difficulties. The movement says that the decision does not serve the Israeli interest and may harm the negotiations with Egypt and the Israeli-U.S. relations.

GUSH EMUNIM SCORNS BEGIN'S SETTLEMENT STATEMENT

TA261711Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 26 Oct 78 TA

[From the Afternoon Newsreel]

[Text] We do not believe the prime minister's declaration about fleshing out the settlements in Judaea and Samaria, the Jordan Rift Valley and the Golan Heights. This statement was made today to our correspondent by representatives of the Golan Heights settlements and members of Gush Emunim. According to them, the published sum to be allocated for fleshing-out objectives was ridiculous and the fleshing-out programs could certainly not be put into operation with this aid. Here is more from our correspondent Asher Fish.

[Fish] The declaration about fleshing out the settlements in Judaea and Samaria and the Jordan Rift Valley resembles someone bandaging a leg that is going to be amputated. This was today's reaction by one of the Gush Emunim leaders to the decision to flesh out the settlements.

As soon as it is known that the autonomy program will be implemented, the IDF will stop defending the settlements, and in its place a local police force will be established. They are saying in Gush Emunim that an addition of several houses to the settlements does not answer the question of the future of the Judaea and Samaria settlers. The main discontent is on the issue of the budget of 300 million Israeli pounds, which was published as apparently intended to implement the fleshing-out programs.

To satisfy listeners, Gush Emunim explains, laying 1 km of the highway crossing Samaria, which is a part of the fleshing-out programs, costs, at the prices of half a year ago, 7 million Israeli pounds. So the cited budget will only finish the highway.

However, Gush Emunim explains that the Gush will cooperate with the cabinet. According to the Secretariat members, there are hundreds of families who are expecting to move into settlements in Judaea and Samaria, and even if the peace treaty is signed, and autonomy is established in Judaea and Samaria, the number of those who want to settle will decrease. [as heard]

Among the Golan Heights settlers, there is complete lack of belief in the prime minister's remarks about fleshing out. This was reported by Yehuda Har'el, who is on the actions committee of the settlements. The programs published about fleshing out, he said, are already in an advanced stage of work in the field. For example, the water reservoir--building started last April and will be completed in the near future. A declaration on this issue, according to him, can only be harmful.

And the program for the 10,000, the plan to bring up the number of Golan Heights settlers to 10,000 within 2 years, will cost about 1.5 billion Israeli pounds. In the view of the Golan Heights people, the sum of 300 million Israeli pounds is ridiculous. It is reported from both the Golan Heights and Gush Emunim that up to now there has been no appeal from them to any authorized element on the issue of fleshing out.

BEGIN PROTESTS SAUNDERS MISSION IN LETTER TO CARTER

TA260713Y Jerusalem POST in English 26 Oct 78 p 2 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin on Tuesday sent a letter to U.S. President Jimmy Carter complaining about replies that the U.S. has submitted to King Husayn's queries about the Camp David agreements.

The U.S. replies in answer to 15 questions raised publicly by Husayn, were transmitted to the Jordanian king last week by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Harold Saunders. Begin also took issue with the U.S. position in a meeting with Saunders on Sunday.

The prime minister is understood to have been particularly upset by the implication in the U.S. answers to Husayn, that after five years of the autonomy regime on the West Bank and Gaza, those areas would be restored to Arab sovereignty.

This is directly counter to Begin's views for under the government's autonomy proposal the question of sovereignty remains open.

The premier is also said to have been disturbed by the failure of the U.S. to inform Israel of its replies to Jordan, before they were submitted to the king. The U.S. paper was made available to Israel only after the fact, thereby denying Israel any opportunity to present its views.

This U.S. action also runs counter to an American commitment to Israel made in conjunction with the second Sinai agreement, in which the U.S. undertook to avoid making any proposals on outstanding issues in the Arab-Israel conflict without coordination with Israel.

The letter also took exception to statements which Saunders made to West Bank Arab dignitaries, when he was labouring hard but unsuccessfully to win their support of the Camp David accords.

The letter made the point that Saunders' activities were a threat to the successful conclusion of the negotiations. It implied that Saunders was damaging the cause of peace because he was raising expectations among the West Bank and Gaza leaders that could never be fulfilled, in view of Israel's stand on Jerusalem and on Palestinian independence.

Begin was expected to send another letter to Carter last night, conveying and explaining yesterday's cabinet decision endorsing the draft agreement with Egypt in principle.

Ash-Shawwa, Al-Khatib Deny Agreement

TA251710Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 25 Oct 78 TA

[Text] In a personal announcement published in today's East Jerusalem AL-QUDS, [Gaza mayor] Rashad ash-Shawwa and Jerusalem governor during the Jordanian rule Anwar al-Khatib disclosed details of their talks with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Harold Saunders. Ash-Shawwa and Al-Khatib published these statements to refute baseless reports--so they claim--which had been published alledging that they had expressed agreement with the Camp David accords during their talks with Saunders. Our correspondent in Judaea and Samaria Mikha'el Maymon reports: [begin recording]

[Maymon] The more dramatic statement is that of Anwar al-Khatib, the former governor of Jerusalem during the Jordanian rule, who is furious over reports that have been carried in Hebrew on the radio that in his talks with Harold Saunders he expressed a willingness to accept the Camp David accords if several changes were introduced. He claims that those reports are aimed at causing splits and suspicion among the inhabitants of the occupied territories. That is why he had a front-page article in today's AL-QUDS, a personal account of his version of the content of the talks and the position he maintained during them.

Al-Khatib says he emphasized to Saunders that he opposed the Camp David accords. He believes that the only solution is the return to UN Security Council Resolutions 338 and 242 and there is no way to avoid incorporating Syria, Jordan and the representatives of the Palestinian people. He also expressed himself in favor of incorporating the Soviet Union in the arrangement because it cannot be overlooked as a factor in the Middle East.

There is no doubt that Anwar al-Khatib, who coordinates his positions with the official Jordanian line, in this case too reflects the current position of Amman toward the arrangement. Al-Khatib's plan to hold a convention of the pro-Jordanian camp in Jerusalem as a counterweight to the PLO supporters will probably not materialize and he aspires instead--so I have learned--to organize a joint convention of the PLO-supporting mayors. This desire, too, falls in line with the trends to grow closer which have recently developed between Jordan and the PLO.

Gaza Mayor Rashad ash-Shawwa, who enjoys a mere independent status, also published the positions he expressed during the talks with Saunders in today's AL-QUDS. Ash-Shawwa claims that he distinctly maintained that the PLO must take part in the arrangement, but in his opinion, there is no need to fear that the Palestinian state, which he thinks would be established, would be communist. Rather, it would be a nationalist state which would not harm U.S. interests.

Ash-Shawwa also said that if the United States guarantees such a solution to the Palestinian problem, he would be prepared to leave for Beirut and personally convince Yasir 'Arafat to accept such an arrangement.

Ash-Shawwa's statement also reflects the need to pacify the PLO supporters in the territories, who have not looked favorably upon his willingness to meet with the U.S. assistant secretary of state.

It should be noted that the two announcements nevertheless do not carry a clear objection to the autonomy plan. This--at least in the case of Ash-Shawwa--falls in line with the foggy position he has so far maintained with respect to this question. [end recording]

CABINET CIRCLES WANT TO ADD YAMIT TO COASTAL LINE

TA261129Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 26 Oct 78 p 2 TA

[By 'Amir Shapira]

[Text] Senior cabinet circles have been consolidating a position maintaining that Israel must strengthen its presence along the Gaza coastal strip. In this context, the possibility of proposing the transfer of the city of Yamit to the southern part of the strip in the Rafah sands is thus being considered, making Yamit the center of Israeli continuity, physically linking the Qatif regional bloc with the Shalom District, which will be established for the Rafah approaches evacuees.

Since Israel is, as a result of the peace agreements, going to remain without a physical presence in that part of the border between the Sinai and the Gaza Strip, it will have to withdraw the settlement buffer on which it had leaned, assuming that Egypt will populate northern Sinai to the international border and create pressure to establish a link with the Gaza Strip population. These thoughts concern the need to review the possibility of creating an Israeli corridor in the southern part of the strip, to connect with the future Israeli presence along the coastal line.

Proposals to change settlements plans prepared for the coastal area--which include the establishment of an additional cluster of settlements on firing range 569 (west of Rafah) in addition to the Qatif District settlements in the northern part of the Gaza Strip--are being reviewed these days.

Senior settlement elements who reported on the wish to dedicate this area to the establishment of the city of Yamit (several km north of its present location) to create a territorial continuity to link the Qatif District bloc through Yamit and Morag to the green line settlements (Nir Yizhaq and Kerem Shalom) and from them to Pithat Shalom, the district which will be established for the Sadot cluster evacuees.

Against this, the alternative possibility is being examined to create, via the Yamit settlers, a regional service center in the Shalom District and develop it to an urban center, which will provide appropriate employment for the Yamit evacuees. This proposal has been made against the background of fears of investing in rebuilding the city of Yamit in the Rafah sands without the assurance that settlers will be found who will be prepared to live under autonomy.

A well-informed element speculates that the preliminary deliberations on these plans are still premature and that they will not become a recommendation before the talks concerning the autonomy clarify without any doubt Israel's status within the framework of the settlement, including the possibility of its deployment.

It should be noted that an Israeli plan to allocate the dunes area as a solution to the settlement of the refugees who would be evacuated from the Gaza Strip refugee camps has been discussed. [paragraph continues]

However, this plan was rejected at the time by the highest political levels, due to pressures for retaining the dunes area as a logistic hinterland for a deep-water port planned for the area and for additional settlements to broaden the Israeli hold on the southern part of the strip.

For the time being, the question of the Israeli continuity has been discussed in governmental forums on the preparation of papers detailing the Israeli position in the negotiations on autonomy. However, the construction work on the third moshav in the Qatif settlements cluster, which began several months ago, continues.

In the Qatif cluster, inhabited by Hapo'el Hamizrahi [MAFDAL affiliated] Moshav movement nuclei, there are families living in Moshav Nezer-Hazani, and other families are living in Moshav Shani (Qatif Bet), which was populated around the Jewish new year. Some of them are going to move to Qatif Gimmel when it is completed in the spring.

DISCUSSION OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH EGYPT AFTER PEACE

TA261212Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 26 Oct 78 p 2 TA

[By Yosef Peri'el]

[Text] The cabinet will not allow the passage of labor between Israel and Egypt after the peace treaty is signed--this is the guideline established by the director general's Committee for the Peacetime Economic Situation, headed by Finance Ministry Director General 'Amiram Sivan.

Among other things, the committee, in its latest session, established a guideline not to set up aid and training teams in various fields to voluntarily aid the Egyptian economy unless this is based on mutual interest and benefit. This is intended to keep from appearing in Egypt as "the clever Israeli"--something that would only harm the efforts to achieve friendship between the two nations.

Another issue that is being discussed now is the framework of the customs relations between the two countries. According to a proposal, there will not be reduced customs rates (like those existing between Israel and the EEC, for example) but higher customs rates, like those existing between neighboring countries who are not members of one economic organization--like Switzerland and France.

The directors general are now preparing the Israeli demand for compensation to counter the Egyptian demands made during the Washington talks. The various cabinet ministries have been assessing the value of the Israeli investments that will be left in the Sinai. Among other things, the possibility will be considered that some of the investments will remain under Egyptian sovereignty but owned by Israeli investors under Egyptian license. Thus, for example, all the recreation areas and tourist sites currently operating along the Bay of Elat and in the Santa Katarina area could remain in the hands of Israeli entrepreneurs and be operated by them, within the framework of the permits, as if they were investors in Egypt.

MINISTRY OF HOUSING PLANS NEGEV DEVELOPMENT SPEEDUP

TA261809Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 26 Oct 78 TA

[Text] The Ministry of Housing has decided to speed up the development of five towns in the Negev to absorb the new settlers who will come to the area after Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai peninsula. The towns are Elat, Mizpe Ramon, Yeruham, Dimona and 'Arad. Minister of Construction and Housing Gid'on Pat told our correspondent on economic affairs that, at this stage at least, there is no intention of establishing a new town in Nizzana because of the lack of response from the inhabitants of Yamit, who were to have been the nucleus of the town. In the five towns, the Ministry of Housing will build 1,500 new housing units in addition to 14,000 units already in stages of construction. The cost of a new apartment, at today's prices, will be between 300,000 and 450,000 Israeli pounds.

ISRAEL COULD REQUEST EGYPTIAN OIL CONCESSIONS

TA261100Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 Oct 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By 'Ido Dissentshik and Yuval Elizur, MA'ARIV U.S. correspondents]

[Excerpt] Egypt will permit Israel to submit proposals to receive concessions for oil searches in the western desert, will buy technical services for oil production and will sell oil from each of its oil fields provided that its sovereignty over all its oil resources is unquestionably recognized. That position was stated in talks on the oil issue conducted between the representatives of Israel and Egypt which were renewed yesterday in Washington.

The Egyptians said that no limit would be put on Israel's activity in the field of oil, but that every Israeli request should be forwarded through appropriate channels and in accordance with the regulations. The Egyptians claimed that Israel will have an advantage over other customers because of its closeness to Egypt's oil fields.

GOVERNMENT ASKS NORWAY TO ASSIST TEXTILE EXPORTS

TA261139Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 26 Oct 78 p 4 TA

[Text] Israel is interested in having Norway ease [restrictions on] imports of textiles from Israel and not impose any limits on them, Deputy Minister [in the prime minister's office] Yoram Aridor, who is now in charge of the Industry, Commerce and Tourism Ministry affairs, said at the beginning of the joint Israel-Norway economic convention talks.

Israel's exports of textiles to Norway are relatively smaller than Norway's overall textile imports, but they are very important to Israel. Mr Aridor, who welcomed the visitors in Norwegian, said that if efforts are made in the two countries, there is a chance that mutual trade will be doubled within a short time.

The head of the Norwegian delegation, Deputy Minister of Commerce and Shipping (Per Martin Alberg) said that Norwegian policy is directed toward increasing exports, not limiting imports.

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DEMONSTRATIONS IN SUPPORT OF SHAH REPORTED

LD261806Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 26 Oct 78 LD

[Excerpt] Thousands of inhabitants of (Shahabad-e Gharb), while carrying the Iranian flag and portraits of the shah, took to the streets today shouting: long live the shah and help us, aryamehr. The demonstrations ended at 1200 hours. According to our correspondent, the demonstrations engulfed all the town's streets and the demonstrators threw flowers to the police.

DISTURBANCES, COUNTERMEASURES REPORTED IN VARIOUS PLACES

LD261242Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 26 Oct 78 LD

[Text] Following the demonstrations held in the city of Gom during the past 2 days, the city is experiencing a total shutdown today. According to reports, military and security forces have increased their vigilance by stationing troops throughout the city. Scattered demonstrations, which began at 1000 today, intensified along Juy-e Shur, Dor-e Shar and Charmardan streets. Security forces confronted the demonstrators with tear gas. Demonstrators were dispersed at Charmardan Street after the security forces fired shots over their heads. According to reports, Muzeh Street has been closed and pilgrims can move in and out of the Holy Hazrat Ma'sumeh Shrine through one gate only.

Demonstrations in Gorgan

LD261244Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 26 Oct 78 LD

[Text] Following recent disturbances in Gorgan, the city's educators have issued the following statement:

As you are aware, on the afternoon of 24 October, following a number of popular mass demonstrations, suspicious groups of people staged a march along the streets and in city squares under the pretense of religion and nationalism. They then proceeded to engage in activities which are contrary to Islamic principles and human dignity. We, the teachers of Gorgan, expect all classes of the people, in these critical times, to refrain from needless demonstrations and any activity which might be contrary to religious and moral principles, particularly activities which might affect religious minorities. We also ask everyone to try to identify those who perpetrate such acts and make them known to judicial authorities. With thanks.

[Signed] Gorgan City educators.

Arsonist Arrested

LD261446Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 26 Oct 78 LD

[Text] The PARS NEWS AGENCY reports that about 2230 last night a person was arrested while carrying incendiary material and trying to set fire to a restaurant in the Karun district of Abadan City. He had planted the incendiary material at the entrance to the restaurant. However, there was no damage. The person's identity has not yet been revealed.

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IRAN

About 500 men and women staged a march in the streets of Ahvaz City this morning. These demonstrations, accompanied by slogans, are still in progress, moving from one street to another. The number of demonstrators is continually growing. According to the PARS NEWS AGENCY, up until 1115 hours, when this report was dispatched, there has not been any trouble, but shopkeepers have closed their shops.

Demonstrations were staged in Kermanshah today. According to reports, hundreds of people between the ages of 16 and 22, mostly students, and others from the city participated. Fortunately, there were no clashes between demonstrators and the security forces, and the demonstrations were concluded peacefully.

Antisabotage Measures in Rasht

LD261248Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 26 Oct 78 LD

[Text] The PARS NEWS AGENCY reports from Rasht that last night hundreds of Rasht citizens staged demonstrations and shouted slogans in city streets. Along their path they attacked the residence of the Gilan governor general and broke down the guardroom next to the entrance.

The Rasht police, in a statement broadcast several times on the Rasht local radio, have warned that if a group of saboteurs continues its sabotage activity--which yesterday resulted in heavy damage to private and public enterprises--the police will resort to harsh measures.

This morning police and military security personnel were stationed at various locations in the city. At the ceremony held today to mark the shah's birthday, the Gilan governor general said that yesterday several people telephoned the police demanding they deal with the saboteurs. He explained that no action was taken, in order to avoid bloodshed.

INDIA

FOREIGN MINISTER VAJPAYEE'S PRC TRIP DELAYED DUE TO ILLNESS

BK270851Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Oct 78 BK

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee's visit to China has been postponed on medical advice. He was to leave for Peking on Monday on a week's tour.

An official spokesman said in New Delhi that fresh dates for the visit will be announced later after consultations with the Chinese Government.

Mr Vajpayee was admitted to the all-India Institute of Medical Sciences after his return from Katmandu last Saturday. He had been undergoing investigations for intestinal inflammation and had been having pains in the spine. Doctors advised him bed rest for a few days. It was expected that he would be well enough to undertake the journey as scheduled, but the doctors have now suggested postponement of the visit.

EDITORIAL SEES RIFT BETWEEN DEFENSE, FOREIGN POLICY MAKERS

BK270425Y Delhi THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 18 Oct 78 p 8 BK

[Editorial: "Defense Viewpoint"]

[Excerpts] Mr Jagjivan Ram's survey, at the annual conference of the army commanders, of this country's strategic environment and security needs is realistic and forthright. While he has not tried to paint an alarmist picture, he has advanced cogent, indeed compelling, arguments in support of his contention that recent changes in the strategic environment call for even greater vigilance than before. No one can brush aside, for instance, the possible consequences of instability in the neighbouring countries--Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran--or of the tension between the superpowers which cannot but aggravate their rivalry in the Indian Ocean and add to this country's problems--a consideration which has clearly influenced the government's decision to acquire Sea Harrier "jump jets" to replace the obsolete Sea Hawks on Ins Vikrant. The defence minister has taken due note of the progress made in normalising and improving relations with Pakistan. But he has also pointed out, quite pertinently, that this happy development has to be viewed not in isolation but in conjunction with Mr Agha Shahi's far from friendly statement on Kashmir at the United Nations.

Even more significant is what Mr Jagjivan Ram has had to say about the United States. As defence minister he cannot possibly be indifferent to the fuss that the United States is making about so simple a matter as the long overdue replacement of the Iaf's aging Canberras and Hunters. Besides opposing the proposed changeover to the Jaguar, vehemently, the U.S. Administration has also made it a pretext for supplying Pakistan with F-5E warplanes. This is in sharp contrast to the benign attitude of the United States and other Western countries towards China's efforts to acquire modern and sophisticated arms which the defence minister, known for his judicious use of words, has described as "feverish." He has also drawn attention to the continuing Chinese buildup in Tibet as well as to the political and strategic implications of the Karakoram Road so ostentatiously inaugurated by both the Chinese and the Pakistanis. Mr Jagjivan Ram's statement is bound to raise the awkward question whether the makers of foreign policy and those in charge of national defence are on the same wavelength. It may well be that the two do not consult each other as often and as closely as they might. Whatever the position, there will be no harm if Mr Jagjivan Ram's statement can be a corrective to the euphoria and exaggerated expectations that sometimes characterise the pronouncements of South Block [Indian External Affairs Ministry] on actual or potential relations with the neighbours.